

Case 3136

***Crotaphytus vestigium* Smith & Tanner, 1972 (Reptilia, Squamata):
proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of *Crotaphytus vestigium* Smith & Tanner, 1972 for an iguanian lizard (family CROTAPHYTIDAE from Baja California, Mexico and southern California, U.S.A. The name is a junior synonym of the invalid *Crotaphytus fasciatus* Mocquard, 1899 and the replacement name *C. fasciolatus* Mocquard, 1903. The specific name of *C. fasciolatus* has been treated as a junior synonym of *C. wislizenii* Baird & Girard, 1852 (currently *Gambelia wislizenii*) and has never been used for the species for which it was established. It is proposed that the name *C. fasciolatus* Mocquard, 1903 be suppressed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Squamata; CROTAPHYTIDAE; *Crotaphytus fasciolatus*; *Crotaphytus vestigium*; Mexico; California.

1. In 1899 Mocquard (p. 303, pl. 13, fig. 1) described and illustrated the iguanian lizard *Crotaphytus fasciatus* from a juvenile specimen collected at Cerro Las Palmas, Baja California, Mexico. However, the name *Crotaphytus fasciatus* Mocquard, 1899 is a junior primary homonym of *Crotaphytus fasciatus* Hallowell, 1853 (p. 207), which itself is a junior synonym of *Crotaphytus wislizenii* Baird & Girard, 1852 (p. 69; see Cope, 1900, p. 257). *Crotaphytus wislizenii* has since been placed in the genus *Gambelia* Baird, 1858 (see Smith, 1946, p. 158; McGuire, 1996, p. 2).

2. Realizing that his name *Crotaphytus fasciatus* was invalid, Mocquard (1903, p. 209) established the replacement name *Crotaphytus fasciolatus*.

3. Smith & Tanner (1972, p. 29, figs. 1 and 2) described *Crotaphytus insularis vestigium* based on an adult male, no. 23338 at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, collected at Guadeloupe Canyon, Juarez Mountains, Baja California in 1965. The name *vestigium* has since been used at species level (see Collins, 1991, p. 43). It is clear from Mocquard's (1899) description and the accompanying figure that the taxon which he named *C. fasciatus* (and in 1903, *C. fasciolatus*) and *C. vestigium* are conspecific (see McGuire, 1996, p. 97). Thus, *C. fasciolatus* has priority over *C. vestigium*. However, since the initial description of *C. fasciatus* in 1899 and establishment of the replacement name *C. fasciolatus* in 1903, virtually every author that has cited these names has treated them as junior synonyms of *Gambelia wislizenii* (Baird & Girard, 1852) (see, for example, Van Denburgh, 1922; Smith & Taylor, 1950; Tanner & Banta, 1963), and the name *fasciolatus* has not been used as valid for the species for which it was originally intended during the 97 years that have since passed. Only Schmidt (1922, p. 637), Burt (1928, p. 6) and I (McGuire, 1996, p. 97)

clearly recognized that Mocquard (1899) had described a lizard of the genus *Crotaphytus* Holbrook, 1842; Schmidt (1922) and Burt (1928) used the invalid name *Crotaphytus fasciatus* Mocquard, 1899 rather than the valid replacement name *C. fasciolatus*. Schmidt (1922) considered *C. fasciatus* Mocquard to be a junior synonym of *C. collaris* (Say, 1823), and Burt's (1928) sole comment regarding the species was to state that Schmidt (1922) considered *C. fasciatus* Mocquard to be a juvenile color phase of *C. collaris*. I (McGuire, 1996) recorded that *C. fasciatus* was an earlier synonym of *C. vestigium*; I adopted *C. vestigium* as the valid name of the taxon, noting that an appeal should be made to the Commission to retain the name.

4. Since the description of the nominal species in 1972, the name *C. vestigium* has been applied by at least the following 24 authors in 19 publications: Smith & Tanner (1974), Montanucci, Axtell & Dessauer (1975), Behler & King (1979), Sanborn & Loomis (1979), Montanucci (1983), Stebbins (1985), Welsh (1988), Collins (1990, 1991), McGuire (1991, 1994, 1996), Frost, Kluge & Hillis (1992), Sprackland (1993), Grismer, McGuire & Hollingsworth (1994), Axtell & Webb (1995), Frost (1995), Jennings (1997) and Powell, Collins & Hooper (1998).

5. The name *Crotaphytus fasciolatus* has never been used for the species for which it was intended, during a period of nearly 100 years, and there would be no point in now giving *C. vestigium* precedence over it (cf. Article 23.9 of the Code). To remove any uncertainty or confusion from the continued use of the name *C. vestigium*, it is desirable that the name *C. fasciolatus* be suppressed. Under Recommendation 23A, this I now propose.

6. The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *fasciolatus* Mocquard, 1903, as published in the binomen *Crotaphytus fasciolatus*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *vestigium* Smith and Tanner, 1972, as published in the trinomen *Crotaphytus insularis vestigium*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *fasciolatus* Mocquard, 1903, as published in the binomen *Crotaphytus fasciolatus* and as suppressed in (1) above;
 - (b) *fasciatus* Mocquard, 1899, as published in the binomen *Crotaphytus fasciatus* (a junior primary homonym of *Crotaphytus fasciatus* Hallowell, 1853).

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